

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-04 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 ACDA-05

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R 291700Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6071

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, EAIR, GR, TU, GW

SUBJ: INTERRUPTION OF AIR TRAFFIC IN AEGEAN AND

STATUS OF WEST BERLIN

REFS: (A) ATHENS 6842; (B) BONN 13835; (C) USDAO

ATHENS 231245Z OCT 74

MILITARY ADDEES ALSO FOR POLADS

SUMMARY: EARLY AUGUST ISSUANCE BY GOT OF NOTAM ATTEMPTING TO EXTEND TURKISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TO MID-AEGEAN STIMULATED GOG ISSUANCE OF NOTAM CONTRADICTING TURKISH NOTAM, LEADING TO VIRTUAL PARALYSIS OVER PAST THREE MONTHS OF TRANS-AEGEAN MILITARY AND CIVIL FLIGHTS. FRG HAS AT LEAST TWICE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO GOG THAT THIS IMPASSE CAUSES FLIGHTS CARRYING TURKISH WORKERS FROM BERLIN TO ISTANBUL TO TRANSIT BULGARIA, WHICH IMPOSES CONDITIONS

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DETRMIENTAL TO WESTERN POSITION IN BERLIN.

NEED TO ALLEVIATE IMPASSE ON TRANS-AEgean FLIGHTS AS
CONTRIBUTION TO IMPROVEMENT OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS
IS REINFORCED BY BERLIN CONSIDERATION, AS WELL AS BY CON-
TINUING PROBLEMS CAUSED FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND US MILITARY
FLIGHTS. WE BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT ATTEMPT SHOULD BE
MADE TO INDUCE GOT TO WITHDRAW ITS NOTAM AND SUBSEQUENTLY
ON GOG TO REOPEN AIR CORRIDOR TO TURKEY. END SUMMARY

1. ON AUGUST 6 GOT ISSUED NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM) 714
REQUIRING THAT ALL AIRCRAFT TRANSITING EASTERN HALF OF
AEgean AND SUBSTANTIAL SLICE OF NORTHEASTERN MEDITERRANEAN
DO SO UNDER CONTROL OF TURKISH AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTERS
RATHER THAN ATHENS AND NICOSIA ATC'S. APPARENT RATIONALE
WAS GOT DESIRE TO CREATE AIR DEFENCE INFORMATION ZONE
(ADIZ) ANALOGOUS TO NORTH AMERICAN ADIZ, A DESIRE STEMMING
FROM SITUATION IN WHICH ATHENS FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION
(FIR) EXTENDED VIRTUALLY TO TURKISH AEgean COST THUS
GIVING NO WARNING OF POTENTIAL PENETRATIONS UNTIL TURKISH
AIRSPACE ENTERED. GOG REACTED BY ISSUING NOTAM 1018 ON
AUGUST 9 WHICH DECLARED TURKISH NOTAM INVALID.

2. COMPETING CLAIMS FOR CONTROL OF AIRSPACE OVER AEgean
THEN LED TO VIRTUAL PARALYSIS OF TRANS-AEgean FLIGHT
ACTIVITY, MILITARY AND CIVIL, ALTHOUGH OLYMPIC AIRLINES
AND OTHER GREEK FLIGHTS TO EASTERN AEgean GREEK ISLANDS
CONTINUE AS GOG IGNORES TURKISH ATTEMPT TO EXTEND ITS
FLIGHT CONTROL AREA. U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT INITIALLY
ATTEMPTED TO COMPLY WITH BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH REQUIREMENTS
BUT TO NO AVAIL, AND US MILITARY FLIGHTS NOW TRANSIT
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES ONLY BY LOOPING SOUTH OF AREA IN
QUESTION. INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION FLIGHTS STILL
ARE NOT OPERATING DIRECTLY BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

3. IN RECENT MEETING WITH DCM, FONOFF DIRGEN OF POLITICAL
AFFAIRS, TZOUNIS, MENTIONED THAT FRG AMBASSADOR ONCKEN
HAD SEEN HIM OCTOBER 25 IN FURTHER EFFORT (SEE REF B) TO
GET GOG TO OPEN THESSALONIKI-ISTANBUL AIR CORRIDOR (G-12)
TO FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN WEST BERLIN. TZOUNIS SAID
ONCKEN HAD EXPLAINED THAT BULGARIANS STILL WOULD NOT
ALLOW TRANSITS OF FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN WEST BERLIN
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UNLESS THEY MADE INTERMEDIATE STOP IN FRG, AND GOB ALSO
REQUIRED CLEARANCE REQUEST AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS IN ADVANCE.

ONCKEN SUPPORTED FRG REQUEST BY POINTING OUT IMPORTANCE
TO ALLIANCE OF CHANNELING TRAVEL OF 160,000 TURKISH WORKERS
RESIDENT THERE THROUGH WEST BERLIN RATHER THAN EAST
GERMAN AIRFIELDS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN STATUS OF WEST BERLIN.
TZOUNIS INDICATED THAT GOG REGARDS GOT EFFORT TO EXTEND

ITS AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL AUTHORITY TO MID-AEGEAN AS DIRECTLY TIED IN WITH TURKISH CLAIMS TO PART OF AEGEAN SEABED AND WITH WHAT GOG REGARDS AS LONGER TERM TURKISH AMBITION TO ABSORB ISLANDS OF EASTERN AEGEAN. IN LIGHT OF THIS ANALYSIS, TZOUNIS INFORMED ONCKEN THAT GOG WOULD NOT OPEN THESSALONIKI-ISTANBUL CORRIDOR UNLESS GOT FIRST CANCELED ITS NOTAM 714, EVEN THOUGH THIS CORRIDOR SKIRTS RATHER THAN PASSING THROUGH AREA IN QUESTION.

4. GOG CLEARLY REGARDS ITS ABILITY TO DENY PERMISSION FOR FLIGHTS TO TRANSIT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AS LEVERAGE TO INDUCE GOT TO RETURN TO STATUS QUO ANTE. SINCE FLIGHTS TO AND FROM WEST ARE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO GREECE THAN THOSE CONNECTING GREECE WITH EAST, MOST OF WHICH CAN IN ANY EVENT BE DIVERTED THROUGH BEIRUT, CONTINUED IMPASSE APPEARS TO BE MORE INJURIOUS TO TURKISH THAN GREEK INTERESTS. ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION OF FLIGHTS TO TURKEY FROM BERLIN, AS WELL AS SUBSTANTIAL INCONVENIENCE TO US MILITARY AIR TRAFFIC OF CLOSURE OF AEGEAN, SUGGEST THAT WE CONSIDER MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE NOT ONLY TO BRING ABOUT SIGNIFICANT NORMALIZATION OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP BUT IN TERMS OF UNILATERAL US AND LARGER ALLIANCE INTERESTS.

5. WHILE MOST LOGICAL CONTEXT IN WHICH TO RESOLVE PROBLEM WOULD BE DIRECT GREEK-TURKISH TALKS GROWING OUT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, THIS APPROACH COULD BE TIME-CONSUMING AND MIGHT INADEQUATELY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THIRD-PARTY INTERESTS SUCH AS THOSE OF FRG AND OURSELVES. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE DEPT SHOULD CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF APPROACH TO GOT SEEKING WITHDRAWAL OF NOTAM 714, FOLLOWED BY SIMILAR APPROACH TO GOG FOR WITHDRAWAL OF NOTAM 1018.

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